

## RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

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Wyoming Board of Agriculture  
July 9 - 10, 2007  
Torrington, Wyoming

Members Present: Jack Corson, President  
Gene Hardy, Vice President  
Juan Reyes  
Jim Mickelson  
David Graham  
Joe Thomas  
Patrick Zimmerer  
Dalin Winters  
Jim Bennage  
John Etchepare, Director, WY Dept. of Agriculture

Members Absent: Frank Galey, Dean, UW College of Agriculture  
David Largent  
Ryan Lance, Governor Freudenthal's Office

WDA Staff Present: Muff Parker, Recording Secretary  
Jason Fearneyhough, Deputy Director

Introductions & Called to order at 8:20 am.

### **Approval Minutes**

**Joe Thomas made a motion to approve the May 16 conference call minutes. Seconded by Jim Mickelson. All voted in favor. Motion carried. Juan Reyes made a motion to approve the June 6 conference call noting the meeting Gene Hardy had was in Lusk rather than Douglas. Seconded by Dave Graham. All voted in favor. Motion carried. Jim Mickelson made a motion to approve the June 20 conference call minutes noting the same correction of meeting place. Seconded by Gene Hardy. Motion Carried.**

### **State Statutes**

John reviewed the statutes making note of the responsibility of the board. When he was reviewing the new statutes regarding the make-up of the Board, John asked the board to get the word out on the youth positions. He indicated the Governor would like to see these positions filled A S.A.P.

As he was reviewing the weed and pest law, the question of removal of quarantine came up. John will find out how quarantine is removed.

Joe wondered-if there were a booklet available identifiable new weeds and grasses being brought in by trucks & equipment. John said he thinks BLM would be willing to help with the weed problems & to work through local weed and pest districts. John said he would check and see if there is a book of any sort that identifies the native and non-native grasses. John noted there is nothing to protect the state against any bugs being brought in and we do not know the long-term damages they may cause now and in the future.

Jack asked what the possibility of moving money within the predator board budget would be. John, Bryce and Gene all felt they should make application to the ADMB. Jack Corson said in visiting with Roger Newkirk, he spoke highly of Chad Curry and indicated he has been very prompt and is good to work with.

John reviewed the recent changes to the seed law. Gil Waibel was hoping to be at today's meeting to talk about the lab and the salary situation, but was unable to make it. John did talk about the higher cost to out-of-state producers. Gil thought he could discount the price based on the list approved by the board instead of increasing it for those outside of Wyoming. The lab is currently making about one third of what it is costing to operate. The Seed Lab Advisory Group (SLAG) is now authorized by statute. This means a new price list can be approved without going through the rule making process.

Discussion regarding the allocation process ensued because there seemed to be a question as to whether the WACD or the board of agriculture has authority to distribute the state funding. John suggested the board invite Xavier Montoya, the new State Conservationist, to the meeting in Douglas to see what his vision is for NRCS in Wyoming. Juan would like to see to the difference between NRCS & WA CD. He wants to know who pays the salaries and who's responsible for what.

The members discussed the pros and cons to the Agribusiness Division of the Wyoming Business Council moving back to the Department of Agriculture. Bryce said it is a good fit where it is currently is. They were a tremendous help in getting the lamb coop up and going. Juan would like to see it move to the department because he feels the department needs representation in production agriculture. Patrick would like to see a good reason for its move and Jack agreed saying he'd like to see a strategic plan before going forward.

ASTM standards are promulgated by the board annually. Rumor is that if a load of fuel doesn't meet another state's standards, it's dumped in Wyoming. The legislature is currently doing a full review of the statutes regarding this arena. The cost of some tests in other states is greater than our fees.

Jim Mickelson said there's a buffalo ranch in Lincoln County as whose buffalo are getting out. He would like to have new statutes defining the type of fencing for buffalo and something to make sure they have to be fenced in. He asked for the boards' support. John suggested a meeting with the livestock board and buffalo producers to get them on board. John is willing to help set up a meeting like this. Juan feels the language should include all animals. An amendment to 11-26-100 to include buffalo would solve the problem.

Muffs updated members on the Living Legacy program. Jim Mickelson said to do the turf in the show rings may be something the board may want to be a part of this program since there are only so many trees that can be planted. There is a possibility that James may be in the process of approaching some of the oil and gas companies to donate funding for the buildings. John asked for all communication with F.A.I.R. go through James & Vickie.

### **Review of State Fair Meeting**

John feels the board should meet later than SF Advisory rather than a joint meeting. Jack feels the State Fair Advisory Board should make their recommendations to the board, rather than the board making the decisions without their input. Jim would like the chairman of the advisory

board to bring the recommend to the Board. Bryce thinks that would well. He feels there are a few other issues where the board should be involved. Jack thinks a November meeting would give plenty of time for Advisory Committee to get recommendations to the Board. Jack would like for improve communication between the committee & board. **Gene made a motion to have the Chairman and the State Fair Director come to the meeting following the fall Advisory Board Meeting to bring their recommendations. Seconded by Graham. All voted in favor. Motion carried. Juan made a motion to meet in Casper. Jim Mickelson seconded. Juan amended the motion to meet in Casper on November 5 and 6. Seconded by Graham. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

### **Liaison Reports**

GBCT - Jim Mickelson reported the producers in Cowley are not willing to destroy their cattle after the discovery of Brucellosis. APHIS said that if they do no destroy them, Montana will loose their Brucellosis Free Status.

State Fair Advisory Committee - Gene said construction is behind and won't continue until after this year's fair. John said there should be a cost estimate and construction schedule coming out soon. The contract for the stabling has been let and paving costs have skyrocketed and will be delayed. We may have to go back to the legislature for that funding. A local hockey league wants to lease the smaller of the two buildings. The will be presenting a 5-year plan in September. The High School Rodeo Assn. has contracted for next 3 years. There is talk underway about having a 4-H Congress which would take some competitions away from State Fair. The Congress will possibly be in June and will include the livestock judging, style review, horse judging and possibly two others. If these events are removed from State Fair, is could be a loss of 250 or more kids, parent, etc. Jason has worked with Johnathan Despain on this issue. Jack and Jason agree that this is not in the best interest of either venue. Jason gave example if we go to legislature. for an allocation and the 4-H does also, it won't work. He said they are waiting to move livestock judging on campus, which is a true benefit for them, but there is not the population in this state to support both venues. John thinks when construction is complete at State Fair Park; we can offer additional venues for sportsmen; including the Expo, which is interested in getting out of Casper. Having the river and the outdoor space is appealing to them. Joe would like to have Jason handle the 4-H Congress meetings and report back. After further discussion, it was decided to write a letter explaining the boards' concerns to Johnathan and copy the letter to each of the Extension offices. Jack would like the members to ask around their area and local fairs and report back their findings at the August meeting in Douglas.

Gene said there is nothing new with WWGA.

Joe indicated the WSGA supports legislation to prohibit any state agency from holding a federal grazing permit.

The WMC is trying to get a one cent tax on Wyoming wheat sold in Nebraska.

John updated the members on the WLCI. He said the Executive Board is putting together an advisory committee made up of county commissioners, conservation district supervisors and grazing board officials. The office is to set up in Rock Springs and the personnel should be decided upon soon. The projects that will be worked on are those that have gone through the NEPA process, but are waiting for funding. Bob Bennett is checking with Washington to see where the money is coming from. Nobody wants to see another program hurt by a reduction of

funding in order for this project to be successful. The 400,000 came from funds that were going to revert. John encouraged the members who may know of anyone who may be qualified, to apply for the position with the department. Jason said there is not a connection between WLCI and GLCI right now, but could be in the future. John asked members to encourage people to support Lisa Reinhart in her position with WLCI. He said she's doing a great job for agriculture and the feeling seems to be that she works for the other side. He indicated she is doing a great job for the department and is the only position in that office representing agriculture.

### **Carbon Sequestration**

Leanne Stevenson gave some background on the Carbon Sequestration Committee (CSC). The committee will be going back to the legislature to increase the allocation to 37,000 and to extend the sunset. The committee is willing to allow the sunset of 6/30/09 unless they receive some direction. She said the Chicago Climate Exchange is coming to the next CSC meeting to explain the structure better and invitations for that talk will be sent out soon. The contract deadline is August 15 for those wishing to sign up for credits.

USGS has commitment to complete the Soil Surveys. Muff will forward on the link to members when Scott Zimmerman sends it.

### **Legislative Changes to Seed Law**

Roy Reichenbach said there were several substantial changes to the seed law which in turn requires changes to the rules. Emergency rules are in place and the board must adopt them. Roy proceeded to explain the needed changes to Chapter 51 rules. **Jim Mickelson made a motion to adopt Chapter 51 rules for 120 days. Gene Hardy seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried.** Russ Zimmer doesn't believe the department should be using emergency rules for this purpose. Roy said because of the prohibited list being removed from statute, he feels the emergency rules were necessary. He said there will be time for public comments before the rules are finalized. He also reminded the members that Steve Brill in Goshen County will have a Russian Olive tour at State line – little Moon lake area on August 1 at 5 p.m.

Jack reviewed the budget with the members. Muff will check to see if there are any outstanding vouchers and let the members know who still needs to submit any for recent travel. John will check and see if the board liaison to the ADMB will be receiving \$100 per day for their travel for that board.

### **2007 Strategic Plan for Agriculture**

John gave the members some background of the plan and had asked those in charge of the seven objectives to send in comments or changes to the update by June 22. John is going to do a phone poll to see if there may be one or two things the department should continue. Scott Zimmerman indicated the members of the ag groups may not allow their executives to work as leads on the plan. John asked the members to review, make comments and get back with him in the next two to three weeks. The general feeling of the members is that to continue would be a waste of time and money. Scott said we can request the "strategic plan" or something that would give the board information on where the ag groups were going. Muff will contact the ag groups and get their information. Karin Clark and Scott will send their information to Muff.

### **Sage Grouse Summit**

Justin Williams told the board about the summit. John said the Governor is going to hold the USFWS feet to the fire. A group is going to be put together to oversee this consisting of a few individuals with extensive knowledge on sage grouse and will be headed up by Jason

Fearneyhough and John Emerich. The sage grouse working groups will be asked what needs they may have. Jason said there is a lot of pressure from Washington to list the bird. Everything has to be peer reviewed science. Since the local working groups have been formed, the number of birds has increased, but critics say is an anomaly. The rest of the western states are not seeing the same increase in numbers.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jack Corson, President

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Date

Attachment: Attendance sheet